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General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth session
27 February–24 March 2017
Agenda item 7

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2017

34/27. Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Human Rights Council,

Deeply concerned at the suffering of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the systematic and continuous violation of their fundamental and human rights by Israel since the Israeli military occupation of 1967,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also all relevant General Assembly resolutions, the most recent being resolutions 71/24 of 30 November 2016 and 71/99 of 6 December 2016, in which the Assembly declared that Israel had failed to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and demanded that it withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 71/97 of 6 December 2016,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision by Israel of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Taking note with deep concern of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[1] and in this connection deploring the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories and expressing regret at the constant refusal of Israel to cooperate with and to receive the Special Committee,

[1] A/71/352.

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Guided by the relevant provisions of the Charter, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and the relevant provisions of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Reaffirming the importance of the peace process, which started in Madrid on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of October 1973, and the principle of land for peace, and expressing its concern at the halting of the peace process in the Middle East and its hope that peace talks will be resumed on the basis of the full implementation of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region,

Reaffirming also the previous relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, the most recent being Council resolution 31/25 of 24 March 2016,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council decided, inter alia, that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from its continuous building of settlements, the most recent of which is the settlement campaign being conducted by the so-called Golan Regional Council under the slogan "Come to the Golan" and referred to as the "farms project", and to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and emphasizes that the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan must be allowed to return to their homes and to recover their property;

3. *Further calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against them and from all other practices that obstruct the enjoyment of their fundamental rights and their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, some of which are mentioned in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;[1]

4. *Calls upon* Israel to allow the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their families and relatives in the Syrian motherland through the Quneitra checkpoint and under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to rescind its decision to prohibit these visits, as it is in flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. *Also calls upon* Israel to release immediately the Syrian detainees in Israeli prisons, some of whom have been detained for more than 30 years, and to treat them in conformity with international humanitarian law;

6. *Further calls upon* Israel, in this connection, to allow delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Syrian prisoners of conscience and detainees in Israeli prisons accompanied by specialized physicians to assess the state of their physical and mental health and to protect their lives;

7. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including the Knesset's decision of 22 November 2010 to hold a referendum before any withdrawal from the occupied Syrian

Golan and East Jerusalem, that seek to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect,

8. *Again calls upon* States Members of the United Nations not to recognize any of the above-mentioned legislative or administrative measures;

9. *Expresses grave concern* about the Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Golan described in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session,[1] in particular the arbitrary arrests of Syrians, the lack of due process guarantees afforded to Syrians and the unlawful mine-laying practices of the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Syrian Golan, expresses regret at the non-cooperation of Israel with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and deplores the Israeli settlement expansion plans in the occupied Syrian Golan and Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories mentioned in the report;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it as widely as possible and to report on this matter to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session;

11. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the human rights violations in the occupied Syrian Golan at its thirty-seventh session.

58th meeting
24 March 2017

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 26 to 3, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Belgium, Botswana, Congo, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovenia, Switzerland]

[1] A/HRC/34/37